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EDITORIAL ON IMPORTANCE OF ANNUAL TRAINING TESTS FOR COMBAT
READINESS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 5 Oct 76 p 1

[Editorial: "The Concluding Inspection Is a Review of Combat
Readiness"]

[Text] A special time has arrived in the activity of the armed
forces. A review of the results of the training year has begun
in the units and on the ships. The concluding inspection is
aimed at evaluating the level of combat readiness and the state
of combat training in each military collective, the degree and
quality of accomplishment of training plans and programs, and
personnel achievements in socialist competition.

Experienced officers have been drawn from combat readiness di-
rectorates and sections, headquarters and political organs to
inspect the units and ships. They must have high principles
and the ability to bring to light everything valuable and pos-
itive in personnel training, establish the causes of shortcom-
ings, and help commanders map out ways to eliminate them. The
inspector who is exacting and strict, ready to look into every-
thing profoundly and thoroughly, to approach the evaluation of
any phenomenon objectively is the one who usually leaves a deep
imprint on the activity of a subunit.

To profoundly and objectively evaluate the results of the many
months of labor of the warriors, and to thoroughly examine all
aspects of the activity of a subunit, unit or ship during a
comparatively short time, it is important to create an effici-
ent atmosphere during the inspection. And here much depends
on the commanders and political workers of the subunits being
inspected as well as on the inspectors. What irritability is
introduced into the course of the concluding exercise by non-
qualitative preparation of equipment and arms, and breakdowns
in operation of training facility equipment is well known. The

urge to send numerous "observers" to the concluding exercises, who must be met during the tests, does not help the matter. But the inspector's attitude and the accuracy of the criteria by which he is guided when evaluating personnel skills and accomplishments is, to be sure, far more important.

These criteria stem from the nature of modern combat. They are determined by the directives, on the basis of which the training process is built. Subjectivism and indulgence here are inadmissible. The peculiarities of the training year and the specifics of the primary missions which were carried out during it must, of course, be considered in full measure during the test. What was specifically done to enhance combat readiness? To what extent have equipment and arms been assimilated and how efficiently are they employed on the battlefield? How is the state of personnel political-morale, discipline, the strength of military order? How is the mobilizing force of socialist competition made use of? The inspectors, working closely with the commander and staff of the units and ships being tested, are called upon to find an objective answer to each of these questions. Subsequent missions, and the ways and methods of carrying them out, cannot be correctly determined, and reserves which remained unutilized cannot be discovered without studying and comprehensively evaluating the elapsed phase and the results of the strenuous year saturated with combat training. Control and verification of performance, and profound and fundamental analysis of the state of affairs is an inherent feature of the Leninist style of work. This, as was emphasized at the 25th CPSU Congress, is the most important part of organizational activity.

The test, while summing up the results of what has elapsed, also yields lessons for the future. The concluding activities, exercises and firings must be a model of accuracy and organization. Unfortunately, they do not always turn out that way. In a concluding exercise, just as in any other, it is essential that not less than two thirds of the allotted time be used for active operations of all personnel and for carrying out practical missions. Combat firing exercises, in the organization of which miscalculations were especially frequently noted, must become a great learning experience for new officers. The mission of the inspectors is to require use of fire in accordance with the laws of tactics, and full resolution of the problems connected with organization of combat, and logical and successive development of dynamics. Personnel training for night operations, the role of which is continuing to grow, merits special attention. While evaluating the collective's state of training as a whole, it is necessary to see to it that each

officer, warrant officer [praporshchik and michman], sergeant and petty officer, soldier and seaman receives individual evaluations, and that his ability to execute functional duties in a situation approximating combat undergoes stringent testing.

An inspection is a most serious test for each warrior, no matter what his experience and wealth of accomplishments. Everyone is bound to consider it as a report to the party and people of the state of his training, morale, and loyalty to military duty.

The pride with which the readers inform the editors of full accomplishment of training plans and programs and the high scores attained in socialist competition is quite natural. Good news has arrived from the air regiment commanded by Lieutenant Colonel K. Chesnochenko, the anti-aircraft missile subunit commanded by Major Yu. Ivashko, and many other military collectives. Commanders, political workers, staff officers, and party and Komsomol organizations are called upon to do everything so that the personnel are thoroughly prepared for the primary test of the year and so that they show what they have achieved in growth of combat mastership, political maturity, and discipline.

In the busy, intense days ending the training year, the effectiveness of party and political work is also seriously checked. It is necessary to influence the course of the test by all forms of political influence, to bring all the little innovations into operational practice, to stir up the masses with the example of right-flankers in competition, to display party implacability to any sort of indulgences and simplifications, and attempts to obtain an undeserved high score, and to decisively stop window dressing and concealment of shortcomings. Party organizations are called upon to help commanders in creating a competitive atmosphere in working out exercises and standards and to strive to see that socialist competition reaches its highest peak precisely during the test.

The concluding inspection has the important mission of bringing to light, evaluating and generalizing innovations, those new ways in training and education, use of equipment and arms, and waging battle, by which the training year coming to an end has enriched practice. This experience must be assimilated and actively used without vacillation. After the test lies the prospect of a great deal of work in improving the training and material base, methodological assemblies, demonstrations, reception of new specialists from training subunits.... A new stage lies ahead in the campaign for further enhancement of

combat readiness and improvement in the quality of the state of training in the ground, air and sea forces. And success will go to those who draw profound and correct conclusions from the test, more fully extract lessons, and set to carrying out new missions fully armed with the experience gained.

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CSO: 1801

NEED FOR IMPROVING UNIT ADMINISTRATION AND SERVICES STRESSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by Army General S. Kurkotkin, deputy Minister of Defense of USSR, chief of Rear Services of USSR: "For High Efficiency in Military Administration"]

[Text] Inspired by the historical decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress, Soviet warriors are selflessly striving to successfully execute the missions levied on the armed forces. Thanks to the concern of the party and government, they have everything necessary for this at their disposal. The Rear Services of the Soviet armed forces have been called upon to reliably support the troops and naval forces with material resources, to organize the correct use and storage of arms, military equipment and other property as well as to see to the organization of personnel daily life and recreation.

With the evolution in military affairs, the labor of our specialists is becoming ever more complex and multifaceted. The training and material base of the units and ships is being improved--the classrooms and firing ranges, tank and vehicle ranges, and training grounds have now been provided with modern equipment and devices. Military posts are being well organized. Substantial changes are also taking place in the technical equipping of the rear services themselves, which are capable of transporting, storing and delivering fuel and spare parts, provisions and equipment--everything needed by the warriors for combat, service, training and everyday life--to the needed place at the appointed time.

Under these conditions, the ability of commanders and rear specialists to deal rationally with available facilities and physical assets, and to manage unit and ship administration and services correctly and economically is acquiring major significance. The necessity to precisely account for and efficiently

use each ruble, each manhour, and each ton of goods and to put an end to mismanagement and slipshodness was pointed out at the 25th CPSU Congress. This requirement is also wholly applicable to military cadres, leaders and specialists in the rear services carrying out missions to further enhance force combat readiness and to improve the conditions of military labor and everyday life of servicemen.

The decisive role in enhancing the efficiency of unit and ship administration and services belongs to the commander. In accordance with our regulations, he bears responsibility for the condition and safe keeping of arms, military and other equipment, ammunition, fuel and other materiel, and for the materiel, technical equipment, medical, financial and commercial-personal services supply of the unit or ship. And it must be said that the majority of commanders have good theoretical training and practical working experience in this area.

Officers A. Kuznetsov, A. Gnevko, I. Solomatin, V. Pykov and many others, for example, have proven themselves to be able organizers of unit and ship administration and services and of subunit administrative activity. In the military collectives headed by them, the campaign for high indicators in combat and political training and in educating warriors is closely tied to the concern for economical expenditure of materials and resources, care and safe use of equipment, and for maintaining barracks, crew quarters and various administrative facilities in exemplary condition. In so doing, the personnel receive everything authorized by supply standards and do not experience any inconveniences in daily activity. Needless to say, this promotes further strengthening of discipline and order, and people's military inclination for new achievements in training and service.

At the same time, inspections conducted in the military districts and in the fleets show that administration and services are not managed like this everywhere. There are units and ships where violations of the rules for storage and use of military equipment and property, and for use and accounting of materiel are tolerated, as well as instances of losses and misappropriation of physical assets. Facts of poor organization of feeding of the warriors and non-supply of them with clothing and bathing and laundry service are sometimes encountered. And the primary reasons for such negative occurrences are weak direction of the administrative activity in the unit or on the ship on the part of the commanders, a low level of special training, and sometimes even an irresponsible attitude of some rear services officers toward the matter.

Deputy commanders for the rear, technical supply officers and chiefs of services are called upon to deal directly with questions on further growth in the efficiency of unit and ship administration and services. Dependent on their skills, experience and attitude toward their duties are how persistently progressive methods of administration are sought and employed in the army and navy, how coordination of rear services and subunits has been organized when performing specific missions, and how successfully specialists are striving for a reduction in existing standards, and for introduction of modern technical means into practice in their activity. However, all rear officers are not yet concerned to the proper extent about raising the professional qualifications of subordinates, and training them in realistic support of units, ships and subunits under conditions approximating combat. The method of individual training of junior rear specialists in their working areas must be more widely used.

The most important factor in ensuring high efficiency in unit and ship administration and services is precise planning of forthcoming measures. A well grounded plan makes it possible to see the main missions facing the various services and to correctly distribute their efforts to enhance combat readiness of the unit or ship as well as to fully organize material, technical, medical and other forms of support services and training of warriors in a timely manner. Such a plan also promotes the most economical expenditure of material, labor and monetary resources.

As is known, the basis for planning administrative activity in the unit or ship is the combat and political training plan and the instructions of senior commanders on allocated appropriations, funds and limits. Only a plan in which these factors have been thoroughly considered when drawing it up can ensure success. Nevertheless, there are still instances of tolerance of over-expenditure of material resources resulting precisely from inaccurate planning of training measures.

The disregard shown by certain unit commanders for established limits in use of vehicle resources and fuel, which unavoidably leads to over-expenditure of material resources while carrying out training missions, is intolerable. Therefore, any plan, no matter how profoundly and thoroughly thought out, must be continually supported by a great deal of organizational work on putting it into action. This work includes direct guidance on all aspects of unit and ship administration and services, selection and optimal disposition of personnel and equipment, strict monitoring of the execution of the plan, analysis and

elimination of shortcomings, and generalization and propagation of positive experience.

Efficiency in unit and ship administration and services is supported in no small degree by regular and qualitative monitoring of the various aspects of administrative activity. The duties of officials in this area have been clearly defined by manuals and regulations, and the special inspection commissions and people's control groups being created in units and on ships serve this same goal. It is important to see to it that people with high moral qualities, who know how to ably check up on one or another sector, and to uncover the true causes and perpetrators of violations are included in the composition of the monitoring agencies. Correct behavior has been observed, for example, in the Black Sea Fleet, and in the Siberian, Moscow and other military districts, where classes and assemblies are systematically organized for supernumerary inspectors, and in which the people are taught the methodology of this work and are acquainted with progressive methods.

While talking about enhancing the efficiency of unit and ship administration and services, one has to cover one of the most important methods of socialist management--the policy of economy, the essence of which lies in achievement of the best quantitative and qualitative results in rational use of available forces and means. "The Leninist slogan for the policy of economy," says L. I. Brezhnev, "is no temporary appeal, but a permanent requirement for all members of our socialist society. Our country will become yet stronger and richer, and our movement to communism will be accelerated if we learn to make the most of each minute of working time, each gram of raw materials and fuel, each part of a machine and each labor kopeck." For us this means conducting our business so that the maximum possible results are achieved with the least material outlays in supplying the varied needs of the forces.

We note with satisfaction that economic work in the units and large units of the army and navy is expanding from year to year. Contributing to this is the more concrete statement of questions of economy and thrift in organizing socialist competition, and intensification of the organizational activity of unit and subunit commanders in the process of planning and implementing measures for combat training and administrative activity. The work in this direction of political organs as well as party and Komsomol organizations has become more purposeful. Professional training of officer specialists in unit administration and services and of all personnel supervised by them has increased.

However, under the conditions of uninterrupted growth and complication of the material and technical base of the armed forces, to be simply thrifty is already insufficient. The sound economic knowledge of all persons having a bearing on the use of material, labor and financial resources is becoming an indispensable condition for enhancement of efficiency in unit and ship administration and services. Therefore, the economic training of officers and other officials in the army and navy must be raised to a higher plane. All officers and generals should persevere in becoming proficient in military-economic knowledge, including the most up to date methods of economic analysis in all spheres of military activity, in organization of planning, transport, accounting, storage and expenditure of material and other resources. Our military academies and schools play a great role in the organization of such training.

The struggle to increase efficiency in unit and ship administration and services is not a campaign, but a policy for the long term. The mission of commanders, political organs, and party and Komsomol organizations is to encourage and develop this effort in every possible way.

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CSO: 1801

BASIS FOR POOR TRAINING RESULTS OF MOTORIZED RIFLE COMPANY

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 6 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by Guards Lieutenant Colonel V. Oleshchenko, Red Banner Belorussian Military District: "Reports and Elections in Party Organizations: Self-critically, On Principle"]

[Text] Summary reports and elections have begun in army and navy party organizations. In their meetings, communists are summing up the results of work aimed at carrying out the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress and the missions of enhancing the combat readiness of the armed forces.

Today, we are printing a report from the party organization meeting in one of the companies in the Rogachev Red Banner Guards Motorized Rifle, Orders of Surov and Kutuzov, Division imeni the Supreme Soviet of the Belorussian SSR.

Senior Lieutenant O. Voshchinin, secretary of the motorized rifle company's party organization, presented the summary report. The communists labored intensely, and now they were analyzing their work and trying to sort out the causes which led to mistakes and miscalculations. No, I didn't make a slip; the company, which for several years running had held a leading place in the unit, almost ended up among the laggards in the current training year. First, the miscalculations made in personnel training methodology did not allow some soldiers and sergeants to successfully deal with fire missions in test fires. Then the breaches of discipline, committed by certain warriors, rocked the reputation of the leading collective.

Why couldn't the company make a positive finish with high marks in personnel training this year too? The answer to this

question was contained both in the party organization secretary's report and in the communists' presentations.

At first glance, it was stressed at the meeting, it seemed as though everything was done correctly. The warriors had promised in their pledges to execute each combat training mission with high quality. Thus, for example, the motorized riflemen of the platoon led by Lieutenant V. Myagkov, while mastering combat equipment and arms, initiated competition in striking targets at ranges bordering on standard capabilities. And the crew, headed by Komsomol activist Sergeant R. Ogrenichem, pledged to execute combat training missions in any weather, day or night. The motorized riflemen also competed for best knowledge of combat capabilities of the arms and equipment of tankers, artillery men, and representatives of other branches of the forces with whom they had to cooperate in tactical activities and exercises.

The company party organization rendered effective assistance to the commander in resolving those problems on which improvement in logistical support to the training process and improvement in socialist competition directly depended. The communists suggested, in particular, making corrections in the planning of field exercises. One of them was shifted to the training areas equipped with an appropriate target situation and engineering works. Others were shifted to night time to strengthen their effectiveness. Still others were planned so that motorized riflemen, tankers and artillery men mutually accompany each other, thereby creating a tactical situation close to a real battle. A technical circle worked regularly in the company. Theoretical conferences and contests expanded the technical horizon of the warriors, and practical skills were improved during contests for the title of best specialists.

In short, organizational activity was conducted intensely, and practically all communists took part in it. Their efforts produced positive results. It suffices to recall one of the control inspections during which the majority of the specialists demonstrated mastership at a degree higher than the classification awarded them.

But this favorable growth did not last. One of those who spoke at the report-election meeting correctly compared it to the growth of a cutting full of living energy, planted not in rich soil, but placed in a vessel of pure water. While it had energy, it grew. But when this energy no longer existed, it began to droop. This is what happened in the company too. Efforts aimed at the organization and execution of basically good measures, were not reinforced by painstaking individual work with people, and their education and moral-psychological

seasoning were poorly attended to. The criticism at the report meeting about the party organization secretary and other communists, who were primarily responsible for creating an efficient atmosphere in the collective and a creative attitude in people toward the duty entrusted to them, was also fair.

Not the least of the factors in the training process is the warriors' frame of mind and their foundation for studying a specific combat technique, overcoming difficulties of battle, and, above all, understanding the importance of the missions being executed. But the company communists forgot about this at times. I shall cite an example. Sergeant Ye. Gunyashin, as it seemed to everyone, mastered the weapons faultlessly. He surpassed the complicated combat standards with enviable ease. But, let us note, he showed all these outstanding results in the classroom and on the firing range--under usual conditions. But when he found himself, and unexpectedly, in a rather complicated situation during tactical exercises, he lost his head and couldn't stand up against the difficulties.

After that incident followed another: a number of soldiers who seemed to have been showing standard results throughout the year unexpectedly "failed" at firing for the record. But this too evoked no anxiety among the communists. Both cases were attributed to unfortunate coincidences. Meanwhile, all this resulted, as everyone was later convinced, from masters of fire being trained under "hothouse" conditions, without taking the demands of modern combat into consideration.

Communist Senior Lieutenants V. Boyko, A. Grevtsov, Lieutenant R. Sytseвич and other comrades spoke about this at the report-election meeting with deep concern. They correctly stressed that the campaign for quality and effectiveness of combat training is not simply an organizational and technical matter. It is also the moral and psychological seasoning of people, and cultivating in them a conscientious attitude toward military labor and their military duty. But above all, it is raising the personal responsibility of and the example set by each communist in training, service, and educational work.

This then was the same conclusion reached by the unit partkom members themselves after the party organization meeting in the motorized rifle company, as well as by us, the workers in the division political section. After all, the shortcomings, at which the self-criticism was aimed in this company's meeting of communists, are to some extent peculiar to other party organizations as well.

REACTION TO COMPLAINT LETTER SENT TO NEWSPAPER

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 8 Oct 76 p 1

[Article by Lieutenant Colonel V. Bogdanovskiy, correspondent of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "Deficiency in Sensitiveness: In the Trail of One Letter"]

[Text] Late in the evening, personnel in the section headed by Sergeant N. Andryunin were summoned to headquarters. After entering Major A. Tarasyuk's office and seeing the regimental rear services officer, the party committee secretary and other officers there, the warriors thought they were about to be assigned some important mission. But they were mistaken.

"Who wrote to KRASNAYA ZVEZDA?" asked Major Tarasyuk sternly.

"I did," answered Sergeant Andryunin.

There is probably no point in retelling the content of the too emotional conversation. They didn't want to listen to the explanations of the sergeant and his subordinates. At the end, turning to the regimental medical services chief, Major Tarasyuk issued these orders: "Write a report tomorrow. We are transferring Sergeant Andryunin to another subunit and will assign him permanent space in the barracks," putting special emphasis on his last words.

Later, they tried to convince me that this was an exceptional event, that this was not Major Tarasyuk's "style," and that Sergeant Andryunin would continue service in the medical section. In short, my advisers led me to believe that nothing special had happened. But I couldn't agree with that. Something completely intolerable had occurred: a sergeant was dressed down for appealing to a newspaper and for ... displaying legitimate concern for his subordinates. "There is no permanent space in the barracks for the personnel in the section which I command" --this is what Sergeant Andryunin had reported to the editor.

I want to make a reservation right off: barracks space for the medical section was assigned; however, the soldiers rarely had a chance to sleep in their own bunks. Somebody would come to the unit on temporary duty or to participate in assemblies, and the soldiers would have to yield their space to the visitors. In principle, this, of course, is possible; but really, isn't the commander who has decided to clear some barracks space obligated to immediately assign new accommodations for his personnel? Alas, this wasn't done in the unit, and the warriors in the medical section sometimes had to arrange whatever they could for the night. Sergeant Andryunin reported this time after time to the regimental medical services chief, the political worker, and to other superiors. His complaints were not ignored. There was some reaction. However, within a short while, the same thing happened again. After the next occurrence, the sergeant wrote to the newspaper.

They tried to convince me that as a section commander, Andryunin was not without blame. Possibly so. But after all, in this instance, he was trying with commendable persistence to get the regulation requirements carried out! There are also other violations of regulation procedure at the regimental medical center.

For example, weekly activity schedules are regularly posted there. However, they weren't followed. Activities have been frequently disrupted and postponed for no reason. Not one soldier whom I happened to question could recall the last time he had any special training.

Competition among vehicle operators is in poor shape. People don't know who is moving ahead and whom they should emulate. Isn't this one of the reasons that the center's vehicles frequently become unserviceable and are being poorly maintained?

I asked Medical Service Captain S. Mkrtchyan to show me the service records for the soldiers and sergeants. He complied willingly, after, however, remarking:

"Are they worth looking at? Our personnel have neither penalties, nor commendations."

As it later turned out, this was not quite true. It is another matter that the officers and sergeants are not making the best use of disciplinary practice for training subordinates. They remember in the subunit, for example, that the senior commander severely punished Private R. Ibragimov for a gross violation of regulations. However, the soldier's immediate superiors "forgot" to make the appropriate entry in his service record.

In fairness, I should mention that the regimental commander, staff officers and party organization are doing much to see that combat and political training plans are carried out and discipline is maintained in the overwhelming majority of the subunits. But the rear services subunits have obviously not had their fair share of this concern. That is why the facts which were discovered in checking out the letter from the regimental medical center even became possible.

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CSO: 1801

EDITORIAL ON DEVELOPING PROPER POLITICAL VIEWS OF OFFICERS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 9 Oct 76 p 1

[Editorial: "Political Views of Officers"]

[Text] Among the jobs which Soviet man knows how and loves to do, among the many professions in the nation which enjoy our earned respect, there is one job and one profession which while having no claim to exclusiveness, at the same time presupposes special qualities of personality. This is the job of defending the motherland. This is the profession of the Soviet officer. The people in this profession have been entrusted with the great responsibility for the fate of the socialist fatherland, and for training and educating its armed defenders. This is precisely what also determines the special value of firm ideological seasoning and a broad political outlook to the officer.

The stable foundation for the officer's political views is Marxism-Leninism. Profound mastery of Marxism-Leninism, its teaching on war and the army, and on the defense of the socialist fatherland permits the officer to comprehensively analyze surrounding reality, to easily orient himself in the problems of social development, to evaluate events taking place from class positions, to find the determining link in the chain of phenomena of army and naval activity, and to draw proper conclusions for his everyday work in training and educating subordinates and in strengthening combat readiness.

Expansion of the scale and the complication of the tasks of building communism, the dynamism of the contemporary international situation, the improvement in military theory and practice, the growth in the general educational and cultural level, the consciousness and knowledge of personnel--all this makes great, constantly growing demands on the officer's political views. He must focus his attention on thorough study of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. The Soviet officer's

honorable duty is to master the huge ideological and theoretical wealth of the congress, to bring its ideas to each warrior, and to show the greatness of those tasks which the party has brought to the attention of the people. No matter who he is--a commander, political worker, engineer, or technician, he is called upon to actively educate the personnel.

The bearer of our Marxist-Leninist ideology and socialist culture, and of the heroic traditions of the older generation, the Soviet officer is the champion of party policy in the armed forces. He educates warriors in the spirit of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, and of unwavering devotion to communist ideas. The officer's duty is to confirm in each warrior's consciousness a clear understanding that he is carrying out a crucial mission in the defense of the socialist gains of the Soviet people and of the building of communism. He is called upon to persistently inculcate in the personnel a love for military service, to form high moral-political and combat qualities in his subordinates, to cultivate conscientious discipline, and to maintain firm military order in the army and navy. By all their organizing and ideological activity, Soviet officers rally the warriors around the Communist Party and Soviet government, and mobilize the personnel for steady enhancement of vigilance and combat readiness.

The breadth of the officer's political views is characterized also by his ability to wage an intense, offensive, and argued campaign against bourgeois and revisionist ideology, to unmask the aggressive nature of imperialism and the reactionary trend of its military preparations and, on this basis, to form high political vigilance in the warriors. This is especially important under the conditions of the exacerbation of the ideological antagonism of the two systems. While explaining the class essence and sociopolitical trend of events taking place in the world to the warriors, the officer is called upon to strengthen in them in every possible way the feeling of filial love for the motherland and responsibility for its fate, and to foster a sacred hatred against the enemies of socialism and a readiness to defend its gains with his blood and very life.

The officer's high political horizon permits him to take a composite approach to the questions of organizing the training and educational process, and ensuring the effectiveness of socialist competition among the warriors. The politically mature officer, having a broad outlook, occupies an invariably active and vital position, decisively and firmly counters shortcomings, and any manifestations of dishonesty, irresponsibility and lack of discipline, conceit and complacency, and exactly evaluates the results of his work and achievements of his subordinates. Routine and formalism is foreign to him in conducting activities; he executes his service duties

creatively, with initiative, skillfully applying advanced methods and procedures in training and educating warriors.

With the manner of the officer having a broad political horizon, we associate such features as high exactingness towards himself and his comrades, strict party responsibility for his entrusted sector of work, faultless execution of service duties, modesty and self-criticism. Inherent in him is a sense of the new, the aspiration to work with perspective, and to continually add to his knowledge. Commanders, political organs, party and Komsomol organizations are called upon to persistently cultivate and develop such features in our military cadres. In being concerned about the steady expansion of the political horizon of officers, they must constantly improve the quality of Marxist-Leninist training, party and Komsomol enlightenment, and political information, and bring about a strengthening of their effectiveness. It is very important to continually enhance the effectiveness of such forms of improvement of the political knowledge of officers as theoretical conferences, seminars and interviews.

The primary path to expansion of the political horizon of officers is steady and everyday independent political study. That is why it is important to steadily enhance exactingness toward independent study, to implement systematic monitoring of it and to organize effective and concrete assistance for those in need of it. Expansion of the political horizon of new officers, who have high theoretical training, but do not yet always have the necessary practical experience, must be the subject of special attention.

Constant concern for improving the political qualities of officers is an important task for commanders, political organs and party organizations. A large role in carrying out this task is played by hearing the accounts of communist and Komsomol officers at party and Komsomol meetings, and party and VLKSM [Komsomol] committee sessions.

Soviet officers make up the foundation and backbone of the army and navy. People of high political and moral qualities, they are carrying out their military and civil duty with dignity and honor. Ideological maturity and a broad political horizon serve as a reliable pledge of their successful activity in the steady strengthening of the combat readiness of the Soviet armed forces.

DEVELOPMENT OF VTOL AIRCRAFT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Oct 76 p 3

[Article by engineer V. Denisov in the column "Military Technical Thinking Abroad": Vertical Takeoff and Landing Aircraft"]

[Text] The practical mastering of jet engines offered aircraft designers striking opportunities for increasing the speed of flight. It is therefore not surprising that the pursuit of speed became one of the basic determining factors in the development of jet aircraft. However, the faster machines became in the air, the more complex was the problem of takeoff and landing. High-speed airplanes demanded a sharp increase in the length of takeoff and landing strips and the quality of their surfacing. This kind of price for speed significantly impeded airplane operation. From a military point of view these difficulties are further aggravated by the fact that they sharply increase airfield vulnerability and deprive tactical aircraft of the necessary base mobility.

This is why the aviation specialists of various countries, as early as the beginning of the 1950s, attempted to get away from the traditional takeoff and landing model and endow airplanes with the ability to take off and land vertically. The power plant on such airplanes must supply vertical thrust either by turning the engines or deflecting the jet exhaust with the help of special devices.

At first, flight stands were built and tested abroad. These were devices that looked like truss frames with vertical turbojet engines attached to them. The flight stands were used to solve problems of stabilizing the device with the help of compressed air as well as steadying it at the moment of transition from vertical to horizontal flight and back.

These experiments indicated a need to develop engines specially intended for the creation of vertical thrust, subsequently called lifting engines. And it seemed that the appearance of vertical takeoff and landing aircraft was a question of time. In any case, in the second half of the 1950s in the U.S. and England, the construction of similar experimental machines with horizontal fuselage configuration on takeoff and landing was rather widespread.

These airplanes were usually equipped with turbojet lifting engines for vertical takeoff and landing and regular cruise turbojet or double-flow engines for horizontal flight. The obvious shortcoming of this so-called compound power plant was that the lifting engines were only used during takeoff and landing, a relatively short period of time, while during nearly the entire flight they represented deadweight. Designers had to try, on the one hand, to use the thrust of the cruise engine to create lifting power on takeoff; and on the other, to use the thrust of the lifting engines in horizontal flight.

These attempts led, at the end of the 1950s, to the creation of new types of power plants. Thus, in the U.S. a vectored-thrust engine was developed, consisting of a turbojet engine from which, during vertical takeoff, the exhaust gases were discharged through special ducts to a turbofan unit in the wing or fuselage. This unit created the lifting power. In horizontal flight the turbofan unit was shut down and only the turbojet engine functioned. In this manner there was a single power plant, of which only a certain portion represented deadweight during horizontal flight. In the U.S. an experimental airplane with this kind of power plant was built and tested, and a series of plans was developed for subsonic tactical planes with auxiliary turbojet lifting engines to boost ascent power on takeoff.

The idea of using a single power plant for vertical takeoff and horizontal flight was also embodied in American and Canadian plans for military transport planes on which, during vertical takeoff, the wing rotated along with regular turboprop engines having heavy-duty propellers. However, experiments with such planes in the early 1960s demonstrated that it was extremely difficult to achieve the necessary reliability in the working components of the rotatable wing and to ensure safety in the event of a breakdown in one of the engines during takeoff.

In this connection, specialists became particularly interested in a plan developed in England for a single power plant for a vertical takeoff airplane. It was a double-flow turbojet engine whose exhaust gases were discharged from the internal and external ducts into two pairs of rotatable nozzles positioned on the sides of the engine. During takeoff and landing the nozzles point downward, while during regular flight they maintain a horizontal position. In the early 1960s several experimental airplanes with these kinds of engines were built and then underwent evaluation tests in the air forces of England, the U.S., and the FRG.

It was on the basis of this design that the tactical fighter Harrier was built and adopted in England. And to this day it is the only operational vertical takeoff airplane in the Western countries. It is equipped with a Pegasus engine and four rotatable nozzles on the sides of the fuselage. In 1971 it was adopted by the U.S. Marine Corps under the designation AV-8A.

The Harrier is a subsonic fighter-bomber with a top speed of 1,185 km/hr. It is intended for direct support of land forces. With a maximum vertical

takeoff weight of 7,260 kg, it can lift a payload of 1,360 kg, including guided and unguided rockets and bombs. The airplane is also equipped with two 30 mm guns.

As reported in the journal INTERAVIA, the Harrier has often been criticized for its limited range, which is only 90 km using vertical takeoff. Its payload, in the opinion of foreign specialists, is also much too small. Therefore, provision was made for operating the plane using various takeoff runs. Under these conditions the payload increases 1.7 times and the range 2.5-5.5 times, depending on the length of the takeoff run.

In the U.S. and England, according to press reports, the Harrier is presently undergoing improvements in precisely this direction. It is to be equipped with a more powerful Pegasus vectored-thrust engine and a more efficient high-speed wing of supercritical shape and increased area, and its fuel capacity is to be increased. Widespread use of lighter construction materials is envisaged in the airplane's design.

Thus, in the words of the journal AEROSPACE INTERNATIONAL, all the plans for a vertical takeoff airplane developed in the 1960s brought nothing but grief. Only the Harrier is something of an exception. The FRG, for example, built and tested an experimental VAK-191B tactical fighter with two lifting engines and one double-flow vectored-thrust engine with rotatable nozzles. After ten years of tests, however, work on it was halted. In France the Mirage-III vertical takeoff fighter-bomber, with eight turbojet lifting engines and one double-flow cruise engine, was tested for a long period of time but never went into operation. Attempts in the FRG to create a vertical takeoff DO-31E military transport plane, with two Pegasus vectored-thrust engines and eight turbojet lifting engines, ended in similar failure.

In short, several dozen vertical takeoff airplanes of various types have been built and tested abroad, and there have been several hundred plans. Curiously, all the experimental planes flew successfully and demonstrated their technical feasibility. However, the cost of perfecting and mass producing these kinds of planes has invariably been too high. The circumstance apparently explains the desire of the capitalist countries, primarily the U.S., England, and the FRG, to pool their efforts to develop vertical takeoff aircraft. In any event, at the start of the current decade there was a well-known revival in the development of such plans. In the U.S., on instructions of the Department of the Navy, a long-term competitive program costing \$2.5 billion has been undertaken to create vertical takeoff aircraft for use with strike carriers and small patrol ships. This program will look at subsonic multipurpose aircraft for transport and antisubmarine operations, tactical fighters, and small subsonic multipurpose aircraft for use with destroyers or patrol ships.

The proposals submitted to the competition by nearly all the leading plane manufacturing firms in the U.S. are once again characterized by a broad variety of types of power plants. An airplane that takes off from a special

launching frame is suggested, a plane having a rotatable tail section with two regular double-flow engines mounted on it and a horizontal nose section containing the crew cockpit. After takeoff, the tail section gradually rotates into a horizontal position and the plane converts to a regular mode. In fact, a similar takeoff and landing system is being examined for the YF-16 and YF-17 as well.

In another plan, vertical takeoff and landing is accomplished with one lifting and two vectored-thrust fans driven by a turboprop engine. For example, in one of the proposals for a heavy-duty military transport plane, the stream of gases from four engines is directed to a wing ejector system having three rotatable vanes. The stream of gases, in passing through this system, sucks in the outer air from the upper wing surface and, by tilting the vanes vertically downward, creates lift power. It is thought that thanks to this, lifting power can be increased 1.5 - 1.8 times.

In short, foreign specialists, evaluating the current status of the development of vertical takeoff aircraft, are noting many difficulties still to be overcome. Included are the creation of more efficient engines, solving the problem of erosion of the launching surface, increasing the reliability of airplane controls and reducing costs.

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CSO: 1801

CRITERIA FOR OFFICER PROMOTIONS DISCUSSED

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by Col V. Gudkov in the column "Personnel Work: Experience and Problems": "A Promotion Misfires"]

[Text] His face beaming, the flyer stepped out of the helicopter, walked briskly up to Major Yu. Nikiforov, and began loudly to announce: "Comrade major, Lieutenant Potenko has carried out the flight plan...." Suddenly he stopped short, mumbled an embarrassed "Excuse me" and, turning to face the officer standing nearby, repeated the report.

A wave of blood rushed to Major Nikiforov's face. He felt his saluting arm grow suddenly heavy. Clumsily and with an effort he lowered it and, hunching over, headed for the staff hut. "Well, comrade ex-commander," said the major to himself, smiling bitterly. He was already sorry he had come to bid farewell to the airfield. But it was impossible not to come--so much of him was tied up with this grassy flying field. Here he began his work as a detachment commander, became a military flyer 1st class. Now he was leaving as a crew commander. Officer Nikiforov had not expected his service biography to contain such a dramatic moment.

For us personnel department workers, such a turn of affairs was also rather unexpected. In selecting a candidate for promotion, we try thoroughly and profoundly to evaluate a man's qualities, taking as of paramount importance the demands placed on the contemporary leader by the 25th CPSU Congress. The overwhelming majority of officers justify our hopes: thanks to diligence and a conscientious approach to duty, they familiarize themselves with their new responsibilities relatively quickly. But sometimes a promotion misfires. The unsuccessful officer himself usually attributes this to bad luck, an unfavorable coincidence. In short, he looks for objective reasons. But a careful study of the service biographies of officers who have not justified the hopes placed in them will reveal hints of a purely subjective nature. Major Yu. Nikiforov, for example, was the victim of poor self-discipline. Evidence of this negative feature is to be found in a number of the officer's characteristics, though not in all of them. There were times when

self-discipline, a sense of personal responsibility for the conscientious fulfillment of his functional responsibilities dominated his behavior. At these times, thanks to his flying ability, the officer moved up the service ladder. It was during just such a period that the question of his assignment to the position of commander of a helicopter detachment was being decided.

Nikiforov was successful. His predecessor, communist officer V. Kandalintsev, guided by the party organization, had created a strong, well-organized collective and set it running smoothly. All Nikiforov had to do, therefore, was preserve a correct style of leadership. The new commander fulfilled his obligations diligently enough right up to the day when he was awarded the next higher military rank. And then--it was as if another man had taken his place. Soldiers and officers arriving at the subunit [podrazdeleniye] had to be quickly helped to find their place in the collective. The major shifted these problems to his deputies. He began to misuse alcohol. Having lost moral authority in the eyes of his subordinates, the officer forfeited the moral right to be a leader.

To lead a military collective means to make it follow you, to be to your subordinates an example of high moral, political, and psychological preparedness and party-minded intolerance of shortcomings. This requires self-discipline, a strenuous and purposeful effort to broaden one's political, military, and technical horizons, improve one's professional skill, and seek out untapped reserves for raising the collective's combat readiness. A leader who stops improving himself, even for a moment, fails to keep pace with life and loses authority. Major Yu. Nikiforov misfired in the performance of his duty because he stopped improving his personal moral qualities.

An unwillingness to increase his knowledge led Engineer-Captain A. Rashev to the same end. The head of an aviation engineering service for a squadron, the captain handled his duties successfully until he attempted to service a modern airplane. Here the officer's theoretical equipment needed renovation. But Rashev, accustomed to getting by on old knowledge, was never able to force himself seriously to undertake the study of aviation technology. The leader's low technical level adversely affected the organization of technical instruction in the subunit and the quality of airplane maintenance. It became clear that Captain Rashev, as they say, was not pulling his weight.

Under conditions of the rapid development of aviation technology and the saturation of subunits with engineering specialists, the demands on the level of leadership of the collective are increasing. It is difficult to predict how things will turn out for an officer. But errors in deciding a personnel question can be reduced to a minimum. How? First of all, it is necessary to examine profoundly the professional qualities of the candidate for a leadership position. It is no secret that in the personnel department we only meet an officer when he is being transferred. As for how an officer handles his assigned job, we basically judge by a reference, which cannot, of course, reflect everything. Now we are decisively improving the style of our work. Personnel workers are visiting subunits more frequently and learning in practice how a given leader handles his assigned job.

Much depends on the method of selecting candidates for promotion, on work with the reserve. In deciding a personnel question, haste is impermissible. Experience shows that if the qualities of a future leader are thoroughly examined in good time, then surprises are fewer. Credit is due the manner of selecting commanders in the Red Banner helicopter regiment imeni V. I. Lenin, where cases of the removal of an officer from duty are unknown. In selecting a candidate for promotion, the commander of the regiment considers the opinion of political workers and party activists. The officer is offered the opportunity of a training period in his new position in order to acquire leadership skills. His professional maturity is already a subject of concern, since it is an important factor in a commander's authority and in correct leadership of the collective. Let us say that additional flights in accordance with the instructor training program are planned for a candidate for the job of group commander. The demands on the candidate will of course be greater.

A great deal of work is done with officers in many aviation collectives before they are assigned to a leadership position. Before assignment. But after? What kind of help is offered young commanders? But they are the ones who need it. Especially group commanders, combining instructor's work with the training of subordinates. As we know, assemblies are conducted with them. But the schedule often allots little time for officers to broaden their pedagogical horizons and master the art of individual work. And in the course of command flights, the basic focus is on the acquisition of training habits. It is not surprising that a group commander teaches flying skillfully but is very weak as an educator.

One would think this should be of constant concern to the pedagogical council of the unit [chast'], the party organization, and the senior chiefs. In advanced collectives the pedagogical experience of the best educators is generalized and disseminated. Thus, for example, officer V. Borshch's coworkers know him to be a keen psychologist, a master of individual work who can find an approach to a subordinate and exercise an effective influence on him. Recently, a party meeting heard a report from this communist. And characteristically, most of the questions came from young group commanders minutely interested in individual work methods. They derived much benefit from the conversation.

This kind of work--the study, generalization, and dissemination of the experience of advanced commanders and its transmittal to recently promoted officers--justifies itself. The formation of young commanders is carried out more successfully the more strongly they feel the support and help of senior, experienced, authoritative comrades.

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CSO: 1801

YOUNG OFFICER COMPLAINS TO NEWSPAPER ABOUT TRAINING SHORTCOMINGS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Col F. Nikiforov: "Lieutenant Yeremenko's Complaint: On the Trail of a Letter"]

[Text] The dirt road loops around the hills, penetrating farther into the taiga. A senior political worker and I are driving toward the far horizon. A letter written by Lieutenant A. Yeremenko reached the newspaper from there. He complains that in his subunit [podrazdeleniye] nobody teaches young officers how to carry out the training of soldiers and sergeants.

From conversations at headquarters I learned that the subunit in which Lieutenant A. Yeremenko is serving last year successfully carried out combat shooting on the firing range. Komsomolets Aleksandr Yeremenko acquitted himself well in this. The equipment he maintains worked perfectly.

You would think this would please the young officer and inspire new energy in him. But the contents of his letter speak otherwise. And although, at the moment, the lieutenant is on an extended field assignment, we nevertheless decided to visit the subunit and meet Aleksandr's comrades, in order to learn what they think about their life and service. A few kilometers from the military post we pick up a pedestrian. He turned out to be Lieutenant V. Pashkevich. He was the first person we interviewed. We ask if he knows Lieutenant Yeremenko well.

Pashkevich smiles: "He's my best friend...." We specify, has he heard about Aleksandr's letter to the editor. "Yes. He told me he had sent a complaint." "Well, what do you think, where is he right and where is he wrong?" "I think in many respects he's right," Pashkevich replies. "We do have shortcomings."

Pashkevich began to tell us about himself. At first he had had trouble working with people. "During training with the troops we were covered by the officers. They backed us up in everything.... Here it's different.

You answer for everything yourself. And the people are different. One of my subordinates, for example, was a fellow from my hometown, Private A. Shumayev. We're the same age. He decided I was going to make things easy for him. I didn't.... But I couldn't find a way to deal with him so that he would understand my orders correctly. Those six months he served here were the hardest for me. It's very difficult to realize that, although you're right, you can't prove it. And none of my senior comrades really helped me."

Then, at last, the subunit. We chat with the officers. They talk willingly about their service and about Lieutenant Yeremenko. Captain V. Borisov gave us many interesting details. In his opinion, Yeremenko is a diligent officer, but many of his mistakes are due to a poor knowledge of army life. The lieutenant thinks it is enough to give an order and everything will be fine--it isn't necessary to verify and monitor the actions of subordinates.

We were also told that he shuns his subordinates. As chief of the guard, he will bend over a book in a separate room all night long. Clearly, his control over people is weakened. This leads to no good.

Yeremenko knows machinery well, you can't deny him that. But when they assigned him to lead an engineering group he bungled it. He didn't carry out a single job.

Captain Borisov agrees that there is nevertheless a grain of truth in the lieutenant's letter, there are many gaps in the educational work with young officers.

And some of the other people we talk to confess that the young officers, particularly in the early stages, lack pedagogical skill, a knowledge of the psychology of a military collective, and an ability to conduct individual work. This results in a lack of self-confidence, and emotional suffering. These difficulties are more successfully overcome when young officers are well trained in pedagogical skills, the art of instruction and education. Unfortunately, the subunit cannot boast of such thoughtful, painstaking work.

Lieutenant Yeremenko needed daily attention from his superiors. Unfortunately, he did not get genuine help. At every failure he was simply punished, and this aroused his resentment.

Once, two soldiers from the night shift, without permission from the chief of the guard (it was Lieutenant Yeremenko), were absent from the guardhouse. Naturally, the lieutenant received a penalty. After a period of time he received yet another one, again because of an oversight in the organization of the guard. He lost heart. Why?

He was justifiably penalized, of course. But he also should have been taught how to organize the guard efficiently.

A group of friendly, talkative lieutenants walks into the officers barracks. Seeing unexpected guests, they quiet down. We take a look at one of the rooms. We note that there is nowhere to sit down--there are only two chairs in the entire room. Apparently the young officers have resigned themselves to their disorganized living conditions.

And what about their senior comrades? They probably think the most important priorities for lieutenants are study and work--living conditions are secondary. But questions of leisure and the interests of the service are closely related.

We acquaint the lieutenants with the contents of the letter to the editor.

"The part about shortcomings in the guard is right," says Lieutenant V. Ivanov. "The night shift quite often cuts firewood. The heating system doesn't work...."

"I led political classes for a year and a half," says Senior Lieutenant V. Marinchik. "I could sense my own ideological growth. Now I'm involved in a Marxist-Leninist training group. And what happens? Our classes are frequently interrupted and moved somewhere else."

The conversation brings up first one, then another painful question. Thus, if the soldiers and sergeants take their first class examinations on time, the officers do not. This disturbs the lieutenants. They are filled with the desire to improve their skill.

The responsibility for many of these shortcomings falls primarily on the former commander of the subunit, Major V. Bugay (he has now been demoted to another job). He essentially neglected work with young officers. And the fruits of inattention, and neglect are there for all to see.

Now another officer heads the subunit. "Everything will be done," he assured us, "to enable the lieutenants to acquire the necessary knowledge and experience as rapidly as possible. We will also take care of their living conditions...." Much depends, of course, on the activity, initiative, and creative work of the youngest officers, including Aleksandr Yeremenko. We want to believe it will be so. And when the lieutenant has no more cause for resentment, when the subunit is the closest and dearest thing to him, then here he will pass through the school of command training, the school of manhood.

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CSO: 1801

YOUNG OFFICERS WEAK IN PHYSICAL TRAINING METHODS

Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Oct 76 p 2

[Article by Lt Cols Ye. Sekretarev and V. Yarmuratiy, senior officers in the physical training and sports section of the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, in the column "The Reader Asks a Question": "Excursion Around an Obstacle Course"]

[Text] That day the tankers were having a class in physical training. Lieutenant V. Romanov was leading them. The theme of the lesson was formulated in his summary as follows: "Overcoming obstacles, and accelerated movement." It must be said, however, that the class looked rather strange. Romanov was explaining to the soldiers, who were standing in formation:

"This is a maze. It is traversed in the following manner...."

Then the officer summoned one of the sergeants out of the formation and ordered him to demonstrate. The sergeant traversed to maze. Correctly or not, the lieutenant did not say.

The class continued in the same key, with only this difference: the leader no longer troubled himself with explanations of each new obstacle. The same sergeant demonstrated all of them, while the rest of the tankers stood, as before, in the attitude of observers. In short, the men had come out not for a training session but for an excursion around an obstacle course.

After the class we chatted with the young officer. It turned out that his goal was to familiarize his subordinates with the contents of the second test exercise. Apparently we had not heard right: according to the program, after all, the tankers should have mastered this exercise back during the winter instructional period. Why the "familiarization" was taking place several months late, the leader of the class plainly could not answer.

We were struck not only with Lieutenant V. Romanov's total inability to organize and conduct a lesson correctly, but also with the fact that he was only vaguely aware of the program requirements. Pity. One of the most

important requirements is that all physical training classes be conducted using the all-round method. In particular, training in overcoming obstacle courses should be combined, in the course of the lesson, with physical exercises on gymnastics equipment, with running various distances, with long and high jumps, and also with mandatory mastering of sambo wrestling methods. It was apparent, however, that the officer first heard of the necessity and possibility of such a lesson plan from us.

Lieutenant Romanov is really just beginning his service. He recently graduated from the Ul'yanovsk Guard Higher Tank Command School imeni V. I. Lenin and should not, of course, already have forgotten the knowledge acquired while he was an officer candidate there. Willy-nilly the conclusion seems to be that within the walls of the school he did not receive the necessary complement of knowledge on the theory and organization of physical training. And once an officer, he did not seek to add to it, apparently because they were unable during his student years to imbue him with a love of this important discipline, an understanding of the role that physical training and sports play today in the instruction and education of troops.

Unfortunately, Lieutenant V. Romanov is by no means the only recent graduate of the military schools who in reality is extremely poorly prepared in terms of instructional methods. The subordinates of Lieutenant A. Matlakhov, who three years ago graduated from the Baku Higher Combined-Arms Command School imeni Azerbaydzhani SSR Supreme Soviet, showed poor results in test classes. Only six soldiers received a "good" rating in physical training, and the scores of the others left much to be desired. And this, after all, is a reconnaissance platoon, and it is entirely logical to expect that, physically speaking, the personnel should be in excellent shape. Upon analyzing what happened it turned out that the soldiers' low ratings were due in large part not only to Lieutenant A. Matlakhov's poor pedagogical, but also physical, training. This was the reason he decided not to conduct the classes himself but to delegate them to his sergeants.

Ashamed of their inability to teach their soldiers by personal example, other subunit [podrazdeleniye] commanders sometimes end up in a curious position. The following case comes to mind. At a gymnastics center some soldiers were stripped to the waist and working out on the equipment. The platoon was led by a major, which in itself seemed to us unusual. He was also dressed in full field uniform, tightly belted up. From time to time the officer would walk up to the horizontal and parallel bars and demonstrate how to do an exercise. His clothes and belt clearly interfered with this.

Later the officer embarrassedly told us:

"Senior Lieutenant Tershukov should have conducted the class. He overheard that a commission was checking up on physical training and decided that at some inopportune moment one of the commissioners was going to drop in on him. He delegated the job to a sergeant who, to put it bluntly, ran away. On the spur of the moment I had to lead the platoon myself."

Senior Lieutenant V. Tershukov, a graduate of the Ul'yanovsk Higher Military Command School of Communications imeni G. K. Ordzhonikidze, is notorious in the unit [chast'] as, physically speaking, one of its most poorly trained officers. In no case may his flight from the gymnastics center be condoned because of this, but it is possible to sympathize to a certain extent: who wants to demonstrate to inspectors, and to his subordinates as well, his own physical weakness?

Similar examples make one wonder. Scientific and technical progress in the development of the means of armed combat has indeed fundamentally affected the circumstances of a soldier's activity in a combat situation. Now as never before, he must possess all-round strength, decisiveness and courage, unyieldingness and tenacity, resourcefulness, restraint and self-control. The extent to which the combat readiness and fighting ability of subunits and units depends on the level of physical preparedness of their personnel is most strikingly revealed during military exercises, when people must act at peak strength, carry maximum burdens, and subject themselves to the prolonged effects of various factors of modern warfare.

In this connection, the importance of physical hardening for all categories of specialists has increased immeasurably. The tasks we must fulfill in organizing the training process have expanded. Classes, training, and competitions must now not only develop strength, stamina, coordination and applied skills--although these are very important in themselves--but also enable servicemen to adapt quickly to military exercise conditions and contribute to the achievement of a high level of combat skill. This is why, given the annually more limited amount of time available for training, the guarantee of success in physical hardening of personnel is specialization and intensification of the means and methods used.

Figuratively speaking, the era of "pure" gymnastic and other lessons is receding into the past. The center of physical training is shifting more and more to the location of the field exercises. The instruction field has also, figuratively speaking, become a stadium in which the commander must organize the class around tactics, weaponry, and other disciplines so that it will simultaneously provide strenuous physical training and develop the qualities, including psychological ones, necessary for fighting. In order to organize his classes this way, the leader must be armed with the latest physical education methods.

It is gratifying that the overwhelming majority of young officers entering the service can skillfully, and in accordance with stipulated requirements, organize the physical training of subordinates. In practice, however, and as our personal experience shows, there are definite costs involved: some lieutenants have not fully mastered modern methods. Highly knowledgeable in other disciplines, they are sometimes far from being genuine organizers of physical training. Obviously some schools devote insufficient attention to this question.

Once, in a conversation with us, Major V. Sorokin, an experienced physical training and sports specialist, complained:

"We intended to organize competitions on the day off. But I'm at a loss where to look for judges...."

Many sports organizers are similarly distressed. Sometimes they cannot find assistants among the young officers to judge competitions in various sports and Military-Sports Complex events.

One would like to see the military schools better equip their charges with skills for judging mass competitions, as well as knowledge in the area of organizing socialist competition in sports, section and team work, and carrying out sporting measures in subunits.

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CSO: 1801

DOSA AF ACTIVITIES IN UNION REPUBLICS

Activities in Kazakh SSR

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Dec 76 p 2

[Text] December 9--The Fourth DOSAAF Congress has just ended here.

An important role belongs to the DOSAAF, one of whose combat detachments is the Kazakhstan DOSAAF, in strengthening the Soviet state's defense might. In the course of socialist competition that has developed for a worthy greeting of the 50th anniversary of the defense society its organizations have intensified the training of the population, particularly the youth, for defense of the socialist motherland.

In recent years there has been a considerable increase in the republic in the number of the society's primary organizations--from 12,800 in 1970 to 15,500. They exist at all industrial enterprises and in kolkhozes and sovkhoses and academic establishments and schools.

The DOSAAF primary organization of the Aktyubinsk Ferroalloys Plant imeni 50-letiya Oktyabr'skoy revolyutsii, which is headed by reserve officer V.K. Aleksandrov, a participant in the Great Patriotic War, is conducting interesting mass-defense work months and weeks devoted to celebrating Armored Forces Day and Navy Day. Subject evenings, meetings with war heroes, conscript rallies, sendoffs of young people into the ranks of the Soviet Army, and tours to sites of revolutionary and combat glory are part of the system here. At the plant all workers and specialists are DOSAAF members. One hundred and more drivers, motocyclists, launch helmsmen, and combine operators are trained for the national economy annually at courses of instruction organized at the enterprise.

The DOSAAF primary organizations of the Ust'-Kamenogorsk Titanium-Magnesium Combine, the Chimkent Cement Plant, the "Trudovoy pakhar'" Kolkhoz of Dzhambul'skaya Oblast, and others are working well.

The ranks of the republic's defense society increased from 3 million to almost 5 million in the period under review. Fulfilling the 25th CPSU Congress instructions to the effect that "the assertion in the consciousness of the working people, primarily the younger generation, of the ideas of Soviet patriotism and socialist internationalism, pride in the Land of Soviets and our motherland, and readiness to rise to the defense of the gains of socialism was and remains one of the party's most important tasks," the republic's DOSAAF members are devoting great attention to improving the forms and methods of military-patriotic propaganda and to enhancing the ideological content and standard of their work.

Memorials to Soviet soldiers who fell in the Great Patriotic War have been erected with the active participation of the defense society. More than 7,500 museums, reading corners, and halls of combat glory have been organized.

A.M. Serkin, chairman of the DOSAAF Sverdlovskiy Raykom of Dzhabul'skaya Oblast, said at the congress that a university of the future soldier is operating and that competitions under the mottoes "Ready for Labor and Defense," "Ready to Serve the Motherland," and others are held in the rayon. Zh. Yeleusov, Hero of the Soviet Union, G. R. Lyapin, a participant in the defense of the Brest fortress, and other war veterans met with those assembled. DOSAAF obkom chairmen K. Bekenov (of the Karagandinskiy) and N.T. Maklakov (of the Vostochno-Kazakhstanskiy) shared their experience of work with pre-draft youth.

The congress was addressed by Z.K. Kamalidenov, first secretary of the Kazakhstan Komsomol Central Committee, K. Igamberdiyev, chairman of the DOSAAF primary organization of the Chimgentskaya Oblast's "Mankent" Kolkhoz, and other delegates. While speaking of the achievements in the society's work, they also noted the shortcomings. Technical training and political-educational work with DOSAAF members is poorly organized and foremost experience and modern methods of sports training are being introduced only slowly in a number of organizations. Certain committees are displaying little concern to strengthen the material-technical base of the training organizations and the sports-equipment clubs.

The congress was addressed by General of the Army N.G. Lyashchenko, commander of the Central Asian Military District, and Lt Gen A.P. Shilin, deputy chairman of the USSR DOSAAF Central Committee.

The congress delegates welcomed Soviet Army soldiers.

The unanimously adopted congress resolution emphasizes that, together with the entire Soviet people, the DOSAAF members warmly approve the CPSU Central Committee's domestic and foreign policy, will continue to be unswervingly guided in their daily activity by the historic 25th CPSU Congress decisions, and will make a worthy contribution to the fulfillment of its plans.

With great enthusiasm the congress adopted a letter to the CPSU Central Committee.

The congress elected the republic's DOSAAF Central Committee and Auditing Commission and delegates to the Eighth USSR DOSAAF Congress.

A.G. Korkin, second secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee, S. S. Dzhiyenbayev, deputy chairman of the Kazakhstan SSR Council of Ministers, A.G. Platayev, chief of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee Administrative Organs Section, Lt Gen M.D. Popkov, member of the Military Council and chief of the Central Asian Military District Political Directorate, and representatives of the republic's ministries and departments and public organizations participated in the congress.

At an organizational plenum of the republic DOSAAF Maj Gen B.B. Baytasov was reelected chairman of the Kazakh SSR DOSAAF Central Committee.

Activities in Turkmen SSR

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 14 Dec 76 p 3

[Text] The sixth congress of our republic's defense society is opening at a time when the entire Soviet people are successfully completing the first year of the 10th Five-Year Plan.

The Land of Soviets has traversed a grand and glorious path since the 24th CPSU Congress. And in the past five-year period our defense society also reached new, higher peaks. It strengthened organizationally, was enriched with the experience of mass-defense work among the population, and scored considerable successes in training the youth for service in the country's Armed Forces. A decisive condition behind these successes was the intensification everywhere of party leadership of the activity of all local DOSAAF organizations.

Currently the republic DOSAAF unites approximately 650,000 workers, kolkhoz members, employees, and students and consists of more than 3,000 primary organizations, many of which have become real centers of mass-defense work.

For example, the overwhelming majority of kolkhoz members in the Ashkhabad-skiy Rayon's "Sovet Turkmenistany" Kolkhoz are members of the primary organization. Under the leadership of the party committee the DOSAAF Committee, which for the second decade is being headed by reserve officer A. Balakayev, war veteran, who has been awarded the Honorary Insignia of the USSR DOSAAF, was able to create all conditions insuring that the kolkhoz youth successfully mastered the principles of military affairs and acquired a technical trade. Various circles and sports sections operate on the kolkhoz. Shooting, motorbike riding, and other military-equipment forms of sport competitions are often held among the society members.

In recent years 41 primary organizations have been awarded the DOSAAF insignia "For Active Work." The patriots of the "Sovet Turkmenistany" Kolkhoz, the Kolkhoz imeni Tel'mana of Tashauzskaya Oblast's Leninskiy Rayon, and of the "Bol'shevik" Kolkhoz of Ashkhabadskaya Oblast's Serakhskiy Rayon are winners in the republic kolkhoz-sovkhoz DOSAAF primary organization competition.

The 21st Turkmenistan Communist Party Congress noted that work on the military-patriotic education of the population, particularly the youth of pre-draft and draft age, has come to be conducted more actively. Our society has also done its bit in this grand and important work.

The populous DOSAAF aktiv, which includes many war veterans, participates actively in the military-patriotic education of the working people, particularly the youth. Months of mass-defense work, predraftee days, evenings and movie festivals on military-patriotic themes, and meetings with war veterans, Heroes of the Soviet Union, and pacesetters of combat and political training from the military units have become a good tradition in the republic's DOSAAF organizations. In propagandizing the exploits of Soviet soldiers in battles for the motherland the DOSAAF agitators and propagandists aspire to organically combine the heroic pages of the past with the present-day life of our army and navy. It is difficult to overestimate the educative significance of these mass-defense measures, whose emotional intensity is addressed to the heart of each young man.

An important direction of youth's patriotic education is the participation of young men and women of the republic in measures of the all-Union tour of sites of combat glory. In 2 years more than 200,000 young patriots participated in this tour. Our society will participate with even greater activity in the new stage of the tour devoted to the 60th anniversary of the Great October.

The defense society's principal task is to train youth for service in the Armed Forces. The DOSAAF training organizations prepare many specialists among the predraft youth for the Soviet Army and Navy. The republic and Chardzhou joint technical schools, for example, are handling this assignment excellently. The republic DOSAAF Club has been awarded the Lenin Jubilee Testimonial of the Turkmenistan Communist Party Central Committee, Turkmen SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, Turkmen SSR Council of Ministers, and Turkmen Trade Union Council and the Challenge Red Banner of the Red Banner Turkestan Military District Military Council.

In accordance with the Law on Universal Military Service, a widespread network of training centers for the basic military instruction of youth of pre-draft and draft age has been created in the republic. Useful initiatives in the organization of the basic military instruction of conscripts is being displayed by many of the society's raykoms and gorkoms. The city of Nebit-Dag may serve as an example. Here a model training center with a well-equipped

military-equipment training hall and classes, movie hall, miniature range with the relief of the locality, and a yard for formation training exercises have been created in the "Turkmennefttestroy" Trust under the leadership of the party and soviet organs. The "Turkmennefttestroy" DOSAAF primary organization has been awarded the DOSAAF insignia "For Active Work."

Military-equipment forms of sport are being rapidly developed in the republic. They demand of the sportsmen an excellent knowledge of equipment and inculcate the high volitional qualities essential to defenders of the motherland. The highly skilled sportsman-motor vehicle operator is, as a rule, also a labor pacesetter and a master of accident-free automobile driving. DOSAAF sportsmen are people who have mastered modern equipment and who possess high moral and physical qualities essential for creative labor and the fulfillment at any moment of their honorary military duty with respect to defense of the socialist fatherland. In the past 5 years the number of go-kart, motorcycle, parachuting, automobile, and powerboat sports enthusiasts doubled in the republic. We have reared 90 masters and 150 candidate masters of sport.

Every year our society trains approximately 25,000 drivers, tractor operators, motorcyclists, radio operators, and automechanics. In the majority of committees the training of mass technical trade cadres is of a planned nature. Throughout recent years the most unremitting attention has come to be paid to the training of engineering cadres in the countryside. Approximately 5,000 tractor operators and approximately 1,000 electrical engineers, auto mechanics, and radio specialists were trained there in 1974-1975 alone.

The strength of the DOSAAF mass defense organization lies in its aktiv. Non-staff sections headed by reserve officers and military affairs' enthusiasts have been set up in many committees.

It is now more than 6 years that the nonstaff section of mass-organizational work and military-patriotic propaganda of the Turkmen SSR DOSAAF Central Committee has been headed by reserve colonel Nikolay Sergeyevich Nikanorov. The old Bol'shevik Chary Kurbanov, an active participant in the revolutionary events in Turkmenistan, is conducting military-patriotic propaganda with enthusiasm.

Socialist competition for fulfillment of the demands of the 25th CPSU Congress and the 21st Turkmenistan Communist Party Congress with respect to the further improvement of mass-defense and military-patriotic work among the working people and for a worthy greeting of the glorious 50th anniversary of the USSR DOSAAF has now become widespread in the republic. The Chardzhouskaya Oblast organization, the Serakhskiy Raykom, and the republic DOSAAF Joint Technical School are marching in the front ranks.

All Soviet people are currently under the impression of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee October (1976) Plenum and the speech delivered thereat

by Comrade L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. He spoke of the need to act such as to insure that each labor collective and each working person be conversant with the long term and have a precise idea of the boundaries which have to be crossed and the tasks which have to be solved. The Sixth Turkmen SSR DOSAAF Congress is summing up the results of the society's diverse activity over the past five-year period and is determining concrete boundaries for the coming years. An active contribution to strengthening the country's defense capability and preparing the republic's working people for defense of the socialist fatherland will remain the DOSAAF's most important tasks.

Activities in Latvian SSR

Riga SOVETSKAYA LATVIYA in Russian 22 Dec 76 p 3

[Text] On 22 April 1918 a decree of the All-Russian Central Executive Committee on the obligatory military instruction of the working people--Universal Instruction--laid the foundations for the creation of organizations contributing to the defense of the Land of Soviets. There were several of them at the start. Subsequently they amalgamated, and the Society for Assistance to the Defense, Aviation, and Chemical Construction of the USSR (OSOAVIAKHIM) unified patriotic-defense organization of working people--the forerunner of the DOSAAF--was formed in January 1927. Robert Eydemann, remarkable son of the Latvian people, was the first leader of the OSOAVIAKHIM.

Soon the DOSAAF will be 50 years old. Our republic's defense society is somewhat younger. Its biography began after the restoration of Soviet power in Latvia.

Our correspondent V. Varlamov met with Col Alfred Krishevich Veys, chairman of the Latvian SSR DOSAAF Central Committee, and put certain question to him.

[Question] What were the origins of the DOSAAF in Soviet Latvia? Please describe the principal stages of its path.

[Answer] The Latvian SSR OSOAVIAKHIM Provisional Organizational Bureau was created on 15 January 1941. From the first days of its existence the society undertook work on instructing the youth in military affairs. Approximately 30 district, city, and rayon defense society councils were operating in Latvia as early as April. Was it possible to do much in the few months prior to the start of the Great Patriotic War? Now, looking back and analyzing the work performed by the OSOAVIAKHIM from the position of the time available, we see that a considerable amount was done. It is sufficient

to recall the heroic defense of Liyepay. Subunits of Liyepay workers and, among them, the OSOAVIAKHIM detachment under the command of K. Birzin' fought alongside regular Red Army units at the approaches to the city.

The war passed, and OSOAVIAKHIM organizations were reborn on the Latvian soil that had been liberated from the aggressors. More than 1,000 mine specialists were trained who, in conjunction with the combat engineers of the military units, cleared Latvian territory of mines, setting examples of courage and heroism. The 16-year-old Yelgava inhabitant E. Zhagata rendered 5,000 mines harmless. The young girls of the Kuldiga district team led by E. Ruperts destroyed thousands of artillery shells, mines, and antitank grenades. More than 1 million mines and explosives were rendered harmless from 1944 through 1948. Impressive figures, are they not? How many human lives were saved by the voluntary combat engineers! Many of them were awarded orders and medals and the insignia "Excellent Mine Specialist."

[Question] How did the defense society's activity in the first postwar years differ from its work today? What does the 1976 model of the Latvian SSR DOSAAF organization represent?

[Answer] I would say first of all that there was and remains one purpose to our work--contributing to the country's defense. Our schools and clubs which have been built in recent years are fitted out with modern equipment, and youth's preparation for military service is conducted with the application of various technical and programmed systems of instruction, that is, a strong material-technical base of the DOSAAF training organizations has been created.

Some 3,302 primary collectives of enterprises, kolkhozes, sovkhoses, and academic institutions constitute the foundation of our republic's organization. The most populous are in Riga and Yelgava and the Tsesisskiy, Dobel'skiy, and Tukumskiy rayons. I would like to mention that the Yelgava people are the initiators of all-Union socialist competition for a worthy greeting of the 50th anniversary of the USSR DOSAAF.

The multithousand-strong DOSAAF collective of the Riga Order of Lenin State Electrical Engineering Plant VEF imeni V.I. Lenin is well known for its patriotic deeds. Approximately 80 percent of the plant's workers are defense society members. The DOSAAF collectives of the "Radiotekhnika" Production Association, the Riga Order of the Labor Red Banner Ship-Repair Plant of the USSR Ministry of the Maritime Fleet, of the Dobel'skiy Rayon's "Auri" Kol-khoz, of the Latvian Order of the Labor Red Banner State University imeni P. Stuchka, of the Rezekne Secondary School No 2, of the Tsisis Vocational-Technical School No 2, and of many others are working actively and enterprisingly.

In conjunction with the Komsomol, the leading DOSAAF organizations are performing a great deal of work on the military-patriotic education of the youth. Tens of thousands of "red pathfinders" are participating in tours

to sites of the Soviet people's revolutionary, combat, and labor glory, in lessons of courage, in mass-defense work months, and in the "Zarnitsa" and "Orlenok" military-sports games. At least half of them are acquiring military-equipment trades in our training organizations. We are also training specialists for the national economy. In Latvia one out of every two transport drivers is a DOSAAF graduate, and tens of thousands of them are working successfully in industry and agriculture.

[Question] What place does sport occupy in the life of the republic's DOSAAF?

[Answer] Some 160,000 young men and women are engaged in our sports sections. All the military-equipment forms of sport are cultivated in Latvia. The "Adazhi" Kolkhoz motorball players, the Riga taxi fleet racetrackers, the Daugavpils Locomotive-Repair Plant imeni Ya. Rudzutak speedway masters, and the Liyepay Air Engineering Sports Club imeni Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin glider pilots are well known in the country.

Over the past 10 years more than 400 USSR masters and approximately 800 candidate masters of sport have been trained in DOSAAF clubs. At the all-Union military-equipment sports Spartakiads our team has constantly come in the first five.

Soviet Latvia's DOSAAF sportsmen are currently approaching the starting line of the first all-Union winter military-equipment sports Spartakiad devoted to the half-century jubilee of the country's defense society.

Today every inhabitant of our republic over the age of 14 is a DOSAAF member. However, we do have shortcomings. It is not all DOSAAF primary organizations which are performing their work diversely and meaningfully. There are also certain flaws in the organization of socialist competition. We will have a principled and businesslike discussion of all our successes and failings at the First Latvian SSR DOSAAF Congress, which will open in Riga on 23 December.

Important new tasks confront our organization in the light of the decisions of the 25th CPSU Congress. The main demand made on each collective and each member of the DOSAAF is to raise the efficiency and quality of all mass-defense work.

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RADIO TECHNICAL TROOPS' TRAINING ACTIVITIES IN FAR NORTH

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Dec 76 p 6

[First part of two-part article by Nikolay Gorbachev: "Over the Entire Expanse"]

[Text] It is a customary and natural thing for us living in the 20th Century to conceive of the numerous air routes which run over the entire expanse of our country. Tupolev and Il'yushin airlines, the nimble "YaK," the unhurried Antonovs, and the hard-working helicopters roam the celestial expanses--and roam according to precise, strict rules. If it should happen that an alien craft attempt to intrude into our airspace, the corresponding information is conveyed momentarily, with electronic speed.

It reaches the staffs and command posts: air defense missiles are pointed skyward in accordance with the radar screen blips, and the turbines of the interceptor-fighters on call at the airfields roar into life. But at the screens the operators in soldiers' pattern shirts will still laconically read off the data: "Bearing... range... altitude...."

The people with the dark gorget tabs who monitor these detectors are part of the subunits and units called National Air Defense radio-technical troops (RTV).

As an independent branch, the RTV, which have already dependably and firmly taken their place in national air defense, are still young. But they were given straightaway the most crucial assignments. And, moreover, the intricacy and significance of these assignments grew not by the day but by the hour.

We discussed all this with Lt Gen Mikhail Timofeyevich Beregovoy, chief of the troops.

"Now our troops' scanning field represents the totality of the airspace above the country. Having detected any target, the radar operators, who are subordinate to soldiers who are masters at their work, are capable of 'reading' the target, that is, uncovering the nature and essence of it down to the finest detail. This is extremely important for decision-making."

Under the conditions of the sharply increased flight speeds of strategic bombers there has been a considerable reduction in the time of the combat operation of the interceptors and air-defense missile complexes. Consequently, air targets must be detected at maximum range, and notification of them must be given virtually instantaneously. But the functions of the RTV do not end here. They provide target indications for the air-defense missile complexes and participate in the guidance of the interceptor-fighters.

...We are in a radar company. This is, probably, the basic combat cell of the RTV. Such companies are scattered at great distance both from one another and from the military unit headquarters and they lead an independent way of life, doing their bit in RTV activity.

A routine day. Routine watch. The oval altimeter antenna, seemingly squeezed from the sides, time after time inexorably described circles. On some detectors the antennas were complex, in several stages, in others they were skeletal and could be seen right through. The stations are powerful, emitting a pulse of great energy and, consequently, capable of spotting an air target hundreds of kilometers away. The detector cabins are cramped on account of the electronic apparatus. There is considerable amount of power engineering in the company: powerful diesel generators and an extensive cable system extending many kilometers....

The control post is a kind of nerve center, whence Capt Aleksandr Nikolayevich Kirillov, commander of the company, directs the work of the combat details. It is from here that the first data on the targets is transmitted to the higher command post.

Captain Kirillov is a tall, red-haired man, easy in words and movements. Was he given these gifts by nature or was it the North which fashioned and polished his unhurried movements and a restraint unusual for one his age? For the captain arrived here, at this post, having served less than 1 year beyond the polar circle.

At these posts one often builds a great deal with one's own forces: the great distances have taught the commanders independence and the ability to locate and utilize local resources. The time for building is short, summer passes like a flash. And then--the polar night, foul weather, fierce frosts, temperatures down to 50 below, howling winds....

All these diminutive "townlets" and centers of military life--radar companies scattered in the forest tundra, in the Arctic--were built and commissioned frequently by the radar operatives themselves. Here, for example, is a communications workers' subunit.

The instrument building, the diesel premises, the sleeping quarters, the temporary cookhouse reminiscent of an attractive glazed hothouse arbor with clusters of fresh tomatoes, the clean, well-maintained territory above which

rise steel arms from the antenna array. I see Warrant Officer Nikolay Ivanovich Litvin, the short, smiling shift chief and the very inspiration and main organizer of the "facility."

The warrant officer is a jack of all trades: he was taught at army universities. He was awarded the medal "For Combat Services." This was for his successes in combat and political training, maintaining high combat readiness, and assimilating new intricate equipment, as an extract from Litvin's personal record reads.

The diminutive townlets have their joyous moments. When a new man comes or aircraft arrive, delivering cargo to the post, or when the helicopter drops long-awaited mail, the entire "actual strength"--soldiers, officers, wives, and children--stream out to greet the occasion. And they are infinitely happy to see a visitor.

And they usually live here as a single family: the concerns, interests, and joys take on a general, collective meaning. The officers' and warrant officers' wives work. As Captain Kirillov believes, "the climate benefits from this."

And there is a further facet of service here--youth. The families are young. There is a rule: officers and warrant officers whose families have children of school age are not sent to the remote posts. The children at the posts are very little, of preschool age. There are not many of them usually, but they are always the true favorites of the subunit.

There is one other unfailing rule for the polar region--at the end of a set term the officers are relocated to the mainland. Yet many who have served in softer latitudes request to be sent here again.

...Events developed intensively: "enemy" reconnaissance flights, diversionary strikes, and, finally, the massed attack of his main forces.

It was firmly forgotten in the radar operator combat details and here, at the command post, that this was only an exercise. If for the interceptor-fighters their attacks were made by soundless sequences of aerial camera guns, for the RTV there was not the slightest departure from actual combat work.

On the plotting board illuminated by fluorescent lamps there extended long tails of lines--the paths of the "enemy" aircraft. There were many of them and they gradually came together into a narrow beam, and it was clear to Lt Col Anatoliy Leont'yevich Varitskiy, seated high up in front of the plotting board, that they would join up between two mountains, where, at first glance, it would be more difficult to scan the area with the detector. Evidently the "enemy" did not know that the radar operators had taken the necessary measurements in advance.

...From the sidelines the column might have appeared strange: various-colored vehicles--a tank truck with a trailer, a triple-axeled "zil" with a winch, a mobile motorized workshop, and a tractor with a sled attachment with a heavy block--the radar operator's instrument cabin--piled up on it. Yet there was a reason for everything here: the train was redeploying to a new post the entire package of the radar station. The column moved slowly--everything was dusted with white hoar frost; the vehicles, trailers, cabins, and the dismantled antenna assemblies were in fabulously magic attire.

Jumping out of the cabin of the head vehicle to check on the state of the column, officer Vladimir Spiridonovich Vdovichenko, the team's senior officer, was himself in minutes fettered by a white suit of armor. The thermometer showed 43 below. And ahead lay a march of many kilometers along natural terrain and forest tundra. The vehicles skidded and stuck in the mess of snow. Each kilometer had to be fought for. Everyone helped in the emergency situations--both the driver shift which was resting and Vdovichenko and his assistant.

On the third day, when it seemed that the path ahead would be easier, the vehicles having descended to the frozen bed of a river, a blizzard struck.

When the column, made visible by scattered blurs of light, finally arrived at the "post," it seemed that it would have been impossible to begin assembly work right away. People were knocked out with tiredness. But they assembled the station and reported its readiness on time. And then, at the exercises, it made an impressive contribution.

Reports were being made at the command post, the telephone operators were conversing, and Morse code was being tapped out behind a glass partition. It was hot from the apparatus which, having worked for many hours, had become heated and the lamps which had been burning at full power.

Had the "antagonist's" plan been foreseen correctly? What kind of maneuver would it make? How and what targets was it planning to strike?

The targets were closing in on the squares of the plotting boards encompassing the intermountain region. Everything was clear.

An urgent communication was sent out, it was received, and orders followed immediately. Despite the fact that the "enemy" had begun jamming, he was met in good time, before the anticipated line of air-to-ground missile launch.

The radar operators did not lose sight of a single target nor a single one of their interceptor-fighters in this difficult situation: the job was done with precision, and the assessment of the situation proved accurate.

DAY-TO-DAY LIFE OF RADIO TECHNICAL TROOPS IN ARCTIC CIRCLE

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Dec 76 p 6

[Second part of two-part article by Nikolay Gorbachev: "Over the Entire Expanse"]

[Text] Perhaps, glancing around the bare hills of the Arctic tundra and the leaden clouds which, while only a minute ago still high, suddenly descend in gray shrouds on the settlement, glancing at all this, you would say that serving here is not easy. You would be answered with a smile: "Normal! We are on the southern shore of the North Arctic Ocean."

...The townlet is squeezed toward the shore by ruddy hills. The houses and barracks are orange, red, blue.... The gay variety of colors brightens up the uniformity of the tundra and helps in finding one's bearings in bad weather. There are bright lamps at the entrances to the houses and barracks; they are switched on during the polar nights and in a blizzard, when the combat details make their way on tow trucks, overcoming the kilometers with difficulty.

The radar beams continuously probe the skies here. The need for particular vigilance is dictated by life itself. It sometimes happens that alien reconnaissance aircraft show up impermissibly close to USSR borders.

...Everything began peacefully at the command post that day. Beginning his tour of duty, Capt Yevgeniy Mironovich Vasil'chenko attentively listened to his comrade's report: passing on the baton at the shift changeover. It is important to clarify all the strong and weak aspects of the detail's activity the previous day.

But during the report there rang out over the loudspeaker:

"Attention--target!"

The plotting board lit up immediately, and the first fix was taken--on the transparent plexiglass--and while the target's number was being made out alongside, Captain Vasil'chenko, turning sharply toward the plotting board, reported:

"Comrade commander! Foreign aircraft!"

Great responsibility is attached to the duty detail and each link of it: the duty officer, the operators, the plotting board operatives, the radio telegraphists.... But, as always, the commander has special responsibility.

Lt Col Vladimir Nikolayevich Bubenchikov has an operational sixth sense--that most subtle and sharp premonition which enables him to "read" and evaluate the situation.

Bubenchikov understood instantaneously: yes, an uninvited "guest." It was packed with reconnaissance apparatus--it was eliciting the frequencies and the radar fields and seeking a weak spot in the radar defenses....

It had come straight from the north, from the ocean.

The commander straightaway pictured to himself the distant post, the rocky shoreline with heaping ice hummocks, the revolving antennas over the group of little snow-covered houses.... That was where the forward company which had detected the target was stationed.

The reconnaissance pilot wove for half an hour over neutral waters, not risking entering the coastal zone. And all this time the radar operators monitored every meter of his path and his slightest maneuver.

The order thanked Sr Lt Petr Rozhnov, Pvt First Class Viktor Reznikov, and other soldiers of the company. A special award awaited operator Pavel Musakayev--at headquarters he was presented with a leave pass to his homeland--Bashkiria.

...The line came to a halt in the barrack square between the barracks and the headquarters. The briefing of the combat detail was over, the assignments and duties of each were run through, and, following the command "Attention!" which cracked out in the frosty Arctic air, Eng Maj Anatoliy Dmitriyevich Churilov, saluting, rapped out the words:

"Combat detail on combat tour of duty to protect the air limits of our motherland--the USSR--take over!"

Later the duty officer at the air-situation plotting board in the command post relinquished his shift.

"No violations of the air border or appearances of foreign reconnaissance aircraft in the last 24 hours."

Then came the analysis of the actions of the duty details and an evaluation of the state of the technical facilities. Political worker Maj Stanislav Aleksandrovich Okruzhko submitted his additional remarks: interesting experience has been accumulated recently and certain shortcomings revealed.

It is necessary to assemble the party and Komsomol aktiv--to discuss and spearhead attention on.... In a word, the shift elapsed in customary and measured fashion, in accordance with evolved ritual. Ceremonially and at the same time in businesslike manner it infects people with energy and a sense of precision for the upcoming days of strenuous military work.

This is a unit of much experience with good traditions which have built up even in peacetime. The overwhelming majority of its soldiers are specialists first and second class and experts. Almost three-fourths of its personnel has two and, in some cases, three related special trades. The CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and USSR Council of Ministers Memorial Red Banner which was awarded the unit in connection with the 50th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution hangs in the headquarters. Alongside is a Challenge Red Banner of the Military Command.

Despite the fact that it is really the edge of the earth here and despite the complexities of everyday life, or rather, precisely thanks to them, the soldiers maintain firm ties with the veterans, and in the room of combat glory there are letters and books signed over the unit by eminent military commanders, writers, and figures of culture.

The Komsomol members of one of Siberia's oblast centers patronize the unit, and during my stay in the unit the radar operators were preparing for a cordial meeting with them.

The radio technical soldiers not only protect the skies of the Far North but also make their contribution to the development of these regions.

...The convoy of ships moves slowly and persistently in the ice. The ice-breaker paves the way. Every day and every hour it has to know the ice situation not only adjacent to the route but also at a considerable remove: ice accumulation, its movement, and the thickness of the ice pack.

The ice scouts--the unpretentious "IL-14's," which have given a good account of themselves under polar conditions--take off for this purpose from the coastal airfields. The military radar operators work hand in hand with the ice scouts, helping them to get their bearings, pinpoint the spot, and set course. The following also happens. The aircraft moves out into the white vastness and falls into a zone which is "dead" for radio communications. Yet data on the ice situation is required immediately. The Glavsevmorput services turn to the military radar operators for help, and the latter report: "There the ice scout made such and such a maneuver and turned back after hugging the ocean. Consequently, the ice blockage here...."

This region is rich, and its storehouses are incalculable. For this reason there are numerous expeditions--scientific, exploratory, experimental-production. It is frequently only possible to supply them with everything they need by air.

But the weather here changes suddenly and sharply: an aircraft can be flying along on a clear day, and suddenly, surprise--everything is covered by continuous, impenetrable dark clouds. And sometimes it will run into a blast of snow--the wall of a resilient white torrent....

And here, at the request of the civil aviation services, the military radar operators help in the intricate shuttle flights for people and equipment....

...When it was time for me to leave, the Arctic already breathed winter. Increasingly often the dank dark clouds shrouded the yellow, as if scorched, hills, snow covered the stony ground, and one shuddered from the icy drops when they fell down one's collar. But navigation was still underway; it was the very peak of the hard work just prior to the long winter lull. It was a busy time for Ivan Panteleyevich Terekhov also. He, the quartermaster, had no rest day or night. Spares and assemblies for the radar detectors, packages of clothings, and crates with foodstuffs and vegetables were being unloaded at the landing.

All this was redistributed immediately: the last traffic was leaving the moorings and hastening here, where subunits of radio technical troops of the country's air defense serve vigilantly and tirelessly the year round.

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END